REMARKS

Claims 1 through 5 and 8 through 10 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been allowed, and claims 2 through 5 and 8 through 10 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, there are no remaining substantive issues.

The drawings have been amended as suggested by the Examiner by designating Figs. 6A-6B as "PRIOR ART", the specification amended to address a typographical oversight noted by the Examiner, rejected claims 6 and 7 cancelled, and claims 2, 4 and 8 amended to address formalistic issues. Applicants submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue.

Specification

The Examiner identified a typographical oversight on page 14 of the specification and courteously suggested remedial language. In response, page 14 of the specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner, thereby overcoming the stated basis for the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure is solicited.

Drawings

The Examiner asserted that Fig. 6A and 6B should be designated by a legend such as "PRIOR ART". The attached REPLACEMENT SHEET (Exhibit A) includes changes to Figs. 6A-6B designating each as "PRIOR ART" as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the drawing objection is solicited.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 4 and 8 identifying perceived informalities. In response, claims 2, 4 and 8 have been amended to address each of the issues raised by the Examiner, thereby overcoming the stated bases for the claim objections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is solicited.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Ao.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by

Marom.

Each of the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 is traversed. Indeed, each of the above rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 has been rendered moot by canceling claims 6 and 7. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 6 and 7 are solicited.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claim 1 and the Examiner's indication that claims 2 through 5 and 8 through 10 contain allowable subject matter. By the present Amendment, rejected claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled and the formalistic issues raised by the Examiner addressed. Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, solicited.

9

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMQTT WILL & EMERY LLP

Registration No. 26,106

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Facsimile: 202.756.8087 **Date: March 3, 2005**

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached REPLACEMENT SHEET (Exhibit A) includes changes to Figs. 6A and 6B providing the legend "PRIOR ART" as suggested by the Examiner.